



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Washington, D.C. 20240

SEP 01 2009



In Reply Refer To:
FWS/ANRS-NRCP/041840

MEMORANDUM

To: Regional Directors, Regions 1-8
From: **Deputy** Director *Rouan W. Gould*
Subject: Fire Program Analysis in Support of 2012 Budget Development

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to the Fire Program Analysis (FPA) implementation effort. As planned, 2009 was a "learning year." The exceptional efforts of the field helped to identify critical system changes and data improvements required to improve FPA. While some of these changes have already been incorporated, many others are ongoing with the support of project, field personnel and scientists (see attachment for a summary of changes).

FPA is now transitioning into the second year of execution. At this time, it is important for field units to begin the preliminary work needed to support the next cycle of FPA. **Completed FPA analysis in support of the FY 2012 budget development is due March 15, 2010.** This date is necessary to allow adequate time for results to be analyzed.

The FPA interagency Executive Oversight Group (EOG) has been reviewing the initial analysis process and system outputs from the 2009 data provided by the 139 Fire Planning Units (FPU). The EOG conclusions are summarized in the following seven key points:

- While recognizing that some data and modeling issues need to be corrected or improved, the system and underlying science show potential for informing planning and budgeting decisions.
- The Bureaus remain committed to utilizing and improving the system, and providing a common interagency process for analyzing fire management programs and budgets.
- There is a commitment to improve reports, data quality and consistency, and model performance via science reviews and field interaction.
- FPA must continue linking to other planning process and data systems such as Landfire, Wildland Fire Decision Support System, and North American Regional Reanalysis Grid Weather Data.



- The FY 2009 analysis will be used to continue development of a strategic working model for an interagency budget process at the national level, but not to allocate FY 2011 programs or funds.
- The FY 2010 analysis will be used to support FY 2012 budget development, predicated upon improved model performance and data, and a broader understanding of the system.
- There is a commitment to develop and communicate a clear path forward that emphasizes learning, incorporates key lessons learned, considers field workload, and manages change.

Utilizing FPA to support budget development for the FY 2012 wildland fire management program is a priority for the Service, the other Interior agencies, and the Forest Service. To ensure success, it is important that line officers are engaged, and provide leadership and support to ensure quality interagency FPU analyses. One of the strengths of FPA is the interagency collaboration at the field unit level. It is also one of the challenges as collaboration takes commitment and time.

The FPA program staff is currently developing the 2010 set of parameters and guidance to support national level programming for the FY 2012 budget analysis. Over the next few weeks, this information will be sent to the FPUs. It will include use of High Valued Resources (HVR), and a set of preparedness and hazardous fuels options based on incremental budget levels that will be used to create model alternatives. The number of alternatives will be limited in order to manage the field's workload while providing results sufficient to identify trends.

While additional challenges are expected, we anticipate that FPA will produce increasingly reliable information. The Research community will remain involved in the development and maintenance of the system to assure that models and system outputs are using the best science available. Continued feedback from field users will be critical in improving the system and its future application.

Similar memos are being released to the other Department of the Interior fire agencies and the US Forest Service. Questions should be directed to Becky Brooks, National Fire Planning Specialist for the Service at (208) 387-5345.

Attachment

CC: Kirk Rowdabaugh, DOI Co-Chair, FPA Executive Oversight Group
John Phipps, FS Co-Chair, FPA Executive Oversight Group

3251 MIB-ANRS
670 ARLSQ-FWS/ANRS-DNRS
657 ARLSQ-FWS/ANR-NR

Fire Program Analysis Planned System Changes and Improvements- July 2009

1	Correct the Initial Resonse Simulator's (IRS) use of resources for a "preparedness season" that spans calendar years
2	Include calculated federal costs for federal acres burned from ignitions that start on non-federal lands
3	Improve Large Fire Simulator (FSim) and statistics relative to large fire growth and size
4	Provide ability for FPU's to edit and validate Fire Workload Areas (FWA) boundaries
5	Create a nationwide grid for FPU landscape, large fire cost, and ownership data to automate the Large Fire model and performance calculations
6	Address the issue of nonburnable fuel model handling in IRS
7	Define modeled period as typical preparedness staffing period (i.e., when 90% of the ignitions occur)
8	Provide FPU's ability to adjust rate-of-spread by fuel model by FWA in IRS as opposed to a global adjustment
9	Enable FSim analyst to adjust rate-of-spread by fuel model as opposed to a global adjustment
10	Provide for automated map graphic outputs and graphs for FSim analyst to use in calibration
11	Enable constraints to ensure consistent reporting of FPU options and adherence to budget increments
12	Enable aerial resource dispatch during extended daylight, e.g., Alaska
13	Provide reports to support FPU, geographic area, and national reviews and interpretation of data and outputs
14	Enable FIL bin summary reporting by alternative by FPU in the FSim model
15	Incorporate calculated acres burned and costs for resource benefit fires in the Large Fire model, discussions are ongoing for FY 2011 relative to workload analysis in IRS and considerations relative to the updated guidance for the Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy
16	Review year one results, and adjust as appropriate, performance metrics

Reference "FPA Year 1 Field Issues and Concerns" on the FPA web site for additional information: <http://fpa.nifc.gov/>